

of the Code of Procedure, one cannot go into appeal if the judgment of the Superior Court is confirmed by the Court of Review. I have retained this provision in the bill, but suitors are free to choose between the Court of Review and the Court of Appeal, and the judgment of the Superior Court may be taken at once into review or into appeal. If the judgment is reversed by the Court of Review, the appeal still lies under the rule which at present exists in the Code of Civil Procedure. So much for the Superior Court. To resume, and I specially call the attention of the members of this honorable House to this point, there is no judicial centralization. Judicial centralization would consist in the fact of our having in Quebec and Montreal, in the large centres, the hearing and trial of cases, and compelling suitors to come to the large centres. But under the bill as I submit it, it is the judges who, as it were, go to the suitors. They go to the *chefs lieux* as they do now and justice goes to the suitors.

#### *The District Court.*

I now come to the District Court. Sections 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 54 and 56 give us the constitution and jurisdiction of the District Court. It has jurisdiction in all cases where the amount at issue does not exceed \$400. Hitherto it was the Superior Court which had jurisdiction in all cases from \$100 to \$400; now in all cases in which the amount does not exceed \$400, it is the District Court which has such jurisdiction. Where does this court sit, and how is it composed? The District Court, says section 45, has and exercises the same jurisdiction, functions and powers as the Circuit Court had, and in cases not exceeding \$400, which were within the jurisdiction of the Superior Court, it has the same jurisdiction, functions and powers as the Superior Court, to the exclusion of the latter. The District Court consists of twenty-six judges, who are distributed throughout the province as follows: Seven of the District Court judges reside in or near the city of Montreal; three reside in or near the city of Quebec, and, with the exception of the district of Saguenay, which is served by the judge of the district of Chicoutimi and Saguenay, each *chef lieu* has a resident district judge. Thus, in every district *chef lieu*, as it now exists, there will be a resident district judge having jurisdiction to the amount of \$400 inclusively. Consequently, it may at once be seen that if it could, by accident, be said that there is judicial centralization in the constitution of the Superior Court, there is decentralization in the case of the District Court; and I would add that there is even greater decentralization than now exists. If we refer to sections 54 and 56 of the bill, it will be seen that, with the exception of the counties of Hochelaga, Jacques Cartier, Laval, St. Maurice and Quebec, the District Court may be established not only in each county *chef lieu* or county seat, not only in each place where the Circuit Court now sits, because it is well known that in some counties there is more than one Circuit Court, but under these sections of the bill in question the District Court may sit in more than one place in the same county.

What is the object of this provision? At present you have extensive